SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I do not want to put any difficult question. I feel it is a privilege for me to put a question to the hon. Minister. We have gone through the reply that has been given by the hon. Minister. So far as the scheme that has been introduced to provide employment to the youth is concerned, the data that has been given, drives me to the conclusion that the targets, which had been fixed at the national level, have not been achieved. The achievement of the various States, especially Andhra Pradesh, is very low. I would like to know what type of constraints are being faced by the Government in implementing the scheme? Has it not been popularised?

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Sir, the hon. Member has been a very experienced person. He himself had been the Minister of Programme Implementation. So, he understands the general problems that are faced in implementing a scheme. But for the information of the hon. Member, I would like to say that certain difficulties are faced by the entrepreneurs or the beneficiaries, who are selected. First, if they are selected by the Task Force and the cases are referred to the bank, there are certain formalities. Sometimes the banks ask them to reduce the cost of the project. Secondly, they ask for a place where the project has to be put up. Thirdly, they ask whether the entrepreneurs have undergone any training or not. So, all these formalities may result in delay.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDARIAH: Sir, I am fully satisfied with the answer.

Harassment of Indian Charge d'Affairs by Pakistan

*53. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged an official protest against the intimidation and harassment of Indian Charge d'Affairs by Pakistani intelligence officials in Islamabad on the 18th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether earlier also, Indian Charge d'Affaires was treated badly in Islamabad;

(c) whether Pakistan also deported Indian Embassy staff after India expelled Pakistan High Commission's four officials who were given 48 hours to leave the country;

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri K. Natwar Singh.

(d) if so, whether Pakistan, on number of occasions, has been violating the International Law on this issue; and

(e) the steps Government contemplate to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Government had strongly protested against the harassment of Indian Charge d'Affaires by Pakistani Intelligence offiicials on 18th January, 2003. Indian officials in the High Commission in Islamabad, including Charge d'Affaires, are routinely subjected to threatening telephone calls, intimidatory and obstructive surveillance and offensive behaviour.

Pakistan expelled four Indian officials on January 23, 2003 and five more officials including the Charge d'Affaires on February 8, 2003. Pakistan's actions were a clear and unjustified retaliation, based on an approach of compulsive hostility, to the necessary measures Government had taken in view of the involvement of officials of Pakistan High Commission, including their Cd'A, in funding of terrorist and secessionist activities directed against India, and in activities incompatible with their official status.

Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral "Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan" signed by the two countries in 1992, the responsibility for the safety and security of personnel of High Commission rests with the host Government. Government of India protests strongly to Government of Pakistan against all cases of harassment of officials of Indian High Commission in Islamabad and reminds them of their obligations under the Vienna Convention and bilateral Code of Conduct. Government remains committed to taking all necessary measures for the safety and security of the personnel in Indian Missions abroad.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was an Ambassador of India to Pakistan more than 20 years ago. I am aware of the conditions

in which our diplomats in Pakistan live. It is in total contrast to the comfort and easy access with which Pakistani Ambassadors and Pakistan High Commissioner live in India. Sir, I think, the whole House would agree with me that we should convey our full support to our diplomats, who are living under very difficult conditions in Pakistan. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. How long does he think that this state of extreme tension will continue and what are your long-term plans for controlling this?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: माननीय सभापति महोदय, विदेश विभाग और विदेश नीति पर सम्मानित सदस्य का बहुत अनुभव रहा है और उन्होंने बहुत सेवा की है। जितनी मेरी उम्र है, उतनी तो आपने सेवा कर दी है। पाकिस्तान में...

श्री सभापति: सेवक और मंत्री महोदय दोनों बैठ जाएं, काम हो गया। बस अब आपका जवाब हो गया।

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

*54. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to enlarge the ambit of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), which is intended to provide foodgrains to the poor at highly subsidized rates, with a view to covering a larger number of poor with food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of additional families likely to be covered under the revised scheme; and

(c) the details of offtake of foodgrains under the scheme by the various States, State-wise, since its inception two years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The question of extending the scope of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) as part of the initiative towards providing support and food security to the most vulnerable sections such as old people, widows